

THE BELLOWS

19th GREAT YEAR

November 20, 1997

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol.XIX , No. 2

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208rd S. 223St. (Take Midway exit # 149 west off I-5..go to first stop light west of Pacific HWY. S...turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, November 20th, 1997..7:30 till 10:00 p.m. (Doors open about 6:30 p.m.)
WHY	Short business meeting..auction (one item per member please)..door prize.. Show & Tell..member trade and sell tables (free to members, please cover table during business meeting). <u>Program</u> : will be reports, comments, tales of the hunt concerning shows that have taken place since our September meeting; including Dave Studebakers report on his trip to George Eastman House.

SHOW COMMITTEE IS OFF AND RUNNING:

The Show Committee for P.S.P.C.S.'s 18th show..April 25th, 1998..had its first meeting on November 5th. There were no major changes. Tables will still be \$35.00 each with a limit of three. Mike Immel is chairman this year..Marvin Olsen is in charge of advertizing..Don Tempel and Don Friend will be in charge of displays..Gary Sivertsen will again handle registration..Darrell Womack is in charge of organizing and mailing post cards to past buyers..Dave Studebaker is in charge of door prizes..Ray Kirlin is doing show buttons..Bill Adams and Darrell will put out signs..Mike Carmel and Ed Fry will be in charge of tickets..Bill Kimber will secure our show guards..Gene Raddatz will be in charge of parking..Don and Dick Boress will organize the friday night hospitality room..Dick Boress and Gene will build show packets and Dick is Committee secretary. Of course Shirley pays the bills and Dave works with the Fair people. Marve will gain sweet talk the fire marshal.

Remember, if you are a PSPCS club member you will receive your show brochure and table order form with your January Bellows. There is no point in trying to get tables before that time.

Mike Immel hopes to make this our best show yet! When he asks for volunteers to take tickets or pass out flyers please give us a hand. Putting on our show is hard work and we can use all the help we can get!

YOU WANT BULBS? I GIVE YOU BULBS!:

One of our local Puget Sound members has lots of old and new bulbs for projectors etc. that he would just love to sell at very discounted rates. If you are interested call Marvin Nauman at (253) 265-6800 during the day, (253) 265-6802 evenings 5 to 8 pm.

Thanks to the Arizona Photographic Collectors for: (Answer at end of news letter, Ed.)

This Month's Mystery Question :

What is the name of the small Japanese Paper "Yen" box cameras made in the 1930's?

BACKSIDE INFORMATION

P.S.P.C.S., INC.'s September 18th meeting came to order at 7:30 p.m. There were 58 members and one guest present. Maxine Nagel was acting secretary. The minutes of the June meeting were read. One correction was made.. "3" Sisters should be "Big Sisters Bingo Hall".

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Dues for 1998 should be sent directly to Shirley Sparrow. (address at the bottom of this page) Dues are still only ten dollars. No club members seemed to have attended the Columbia Gorge Show this past summer. Bill Kimber said he heard it was not heavily attended. Mike Comstock reported on the National Steoscopic Show held in Bellevue on July 5th and 6th. Mike reported a good turn out from across the United States with lots of "how to" talks an interesting auction and a good show day with excellent sales reported. The next national show will be on the east coast.

The report on the Chuck Richlen show by several members stated that it was very hot that day and not very many customers came through the door. It was more or less of a "junk" show and was not very well organized on Saturday morning. However, some felt his second day Portland show had been worth the trip.

Bob Kelly reported on the club internet home page. There have been 150+ visits so far. The temporary address is: <http://www.geocities.com/Eureka/Park/3740/> come have a look. Bob is asking for articles or announcements from members to post. No items may be put up for sale on the club page. Bill Adams commented on the contents of his web page and suggested his could be linked to the club web page. Some members were in favor of this, others were not. Because of the diversity of opinion Bill Adams was asked to look into the matter with whomever felt as he did and report back to the membership at the November meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Volunteers were taken for the 1998 Show Committee (see story on page one.) Announcements of up coming show were made. It was decided to set up Friday evening for the club's interclub swap meet and to spend \$50.00 advertising the show.

AUCTION..SHOW & TELL..DOOR PRIZES:

Eleven items were auctioned off for a total of \$260.00. One item did not sell. Eight members brought some most interesting summer treasure finds to share. Three members were the lucky winners of door prizes.

Meeting adjourned to selling and swapping at 9:25 p.m.



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to: Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046.

Dues are \$10.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow P.O. Box 70, Ronald, WA 98940 (509) 649-2477. P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our spring show.

PRESIDENT: DAVE STUDEBAKER, (253) 582-4878

The following article is taken from Photogrnomia the official journal of Photographic Collectors of Houston and is used here with much thanks. Ed.

Tops and flops – a short history of ALPA

1918

December 19th: the company Pignons SA was founded in the village of Ballaigues/Switzerland. Initially, activities were limited to supplying mechanical parts to manufacturers of watches and other precision instruments.

1933

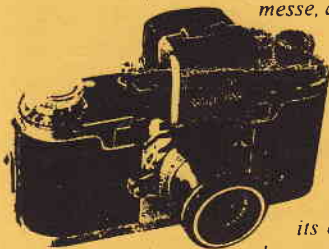
Pignons SA made first contact with the technical designer Jacques Bolsky (born in the Ukraine under the name of Bogopolsky, died in the early 1960s in the USA as Jacques Bolsey). Happily, the chance offered by Bolsky was seized at Ballaigues. His proposals involved the expansion of the company into the manufacturing of photographic cameras.

1942

While war raged all around Switzerland, Pignons produced a first series of ALPA Reflex cameras. Although the world had too many problems to take much notice of these premieres, a few of the new cameras nevertheless made it as far as the USA.

1944

In that year, the Spring exhibition at Basle, the Mustermesse, at long last introduced the ALPA Reflex to a wider public. It can rightly be regarded as the year in which ALPA entered the exclusive world of top-of-the-range cameras.



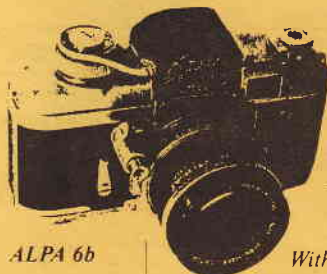
ALPA Reflex

1951

Pignons, resp. ALPA, has never produced its own lenses, preferring to buy them from the most reputable manufacturers in Europe and later in Japan, too. From 1951 onwards, the 50 mm lens MADE IN SWITZERLAND of Kern Aarau played a special role. The 1:1.8 Switar introduced that year was replaced after 1958 by the Macro-Switar which in 1968 was given a reduced largest stop of 1:1.9.

1952

That year saw the presentation of the second ALPA-generation, designed by André Cornut and showing major technical advance: in place of the sheet-steel construction a new die-cast alloy body was introduced as well as the ALPA bayonet lens mounting. The new body was extraordinarily robust and of remarkable, purely functional, beauty.



ALPA 6b

1959

With the b-models the typical ALPA film advance lever made its first appearance. It had to be operated front-to-back rather than in the more common back-to-front mode.

1964

With the model 9d ALPA achieved a technical master stroke: one of the earliest cameras with a TTL (through-the-lens) exposure meter.

1966

The third ALPA-generation appeared: the model numbered 10 with a redesigned upper body. At the end of the 1960s and the early 1970s, Pignons produced around 200 ALPA cameras per month. This was a huge number for a camera that was manufactured manually by skilled craftsmen but is, of course, only the output of a few minutes on an automated camera production line.

The 80s

The model 11si marked the technological apex as well as the end-point of the ALPA 24x36 mm SLR development. The production of ALPA 11si cameras fell throughout the 1980s to reach a low of 4 to 5 per month. Alarm bells started ringing in earnest at every supplier with an outstanding account at Pignons when on July 14th 1989 the company sold the building in which the ALPA cameras had been made for so long.

1990

On August 14th 1990, bankruptcy proceedings were instituted against Pignons SA at Ballaigues. How and why did one of the world's most distinguished cameras reach such a low point?

Remark 1: It is easy to be wise after the event.

Remark 2: Similar comments to those we are about to make below may be made about a number of other well-known camera manufacturers.

We feel that the reasons behind the decline and fall of ALPA's original owners are primarily the following:

1. Lack of interest in the product and lack of personal engagement by the decision-makers of the firm.
2. The company did not concentrate on its core business but split itself up into too many other activities. Its core business was the design and manufacture of high-quality, hand-crafted cameras for a small but demanding circle of connoisseurs and enthusiasts. In other words: ALPA.
3. The ALPA cameras produced in the 1980s did not match the spirit of the decade. Today, on the other hand, we are witnessing a veritable renaissance of classical mechanics at the highest level of quality. Some sensitive photographers are beginning to realize that the enjoyment of their art—which is what it should all be about, really—gets buried under an avalanche of ever more automated gizmos, banks of flashing lights, multi functional buttons fore and aft, information displays so complex that heavy tomes of instruction manuals are not enough to explain it all, with the whole show run by current-guzzling, battery-killing and often far from quiet electric motors. Moreover, the marvels of modern electronics have a disagreeable knack for breaking down under less than ideal environmental conditions.



ALPA 9d



ALPA 11si

1990-96

Why did the simple bankruptcy case of Pignons take six years to reach a conclusion? Well-informed sources do not lay the blame entirely on the overworked official receiver's office. Instead, they hint at the peculiar social, economic, political and even religious complexities in this rather remote corner of French-speaking Switzerland.

1996

On February 29th 1996 we (Capaul & Weber, Zürich/Switzerland) purchased the world-wide rights to the brand name ALPA from the bankrupt Pignons SA.

The following is an edited article sent on the internet and sent along by Bob Kelly.
Thanks to author Ross Alford, Ed. <http://www.jcu.edu.au/dept/Zoology/staff/alford.htm>

This is a description of a visit to Melbourne, Australlia for the October 1997 APCS camera show.

This show is held twice a year and most people seem to think it is the best show in the country. The show had about 100 tables, and attracts collectors/dealers from all over the country, plus a few from overseas. Unlike some North American shows I've been to, the hall is large enough to accomodate all the tables with enough room for the milling crowd to navigate about without forming too much crush.

I can summarise my purchases by saying that I did find nice items at what I thought were very good prices. Lots of folding rollfilm cameras were available, and a fair scattering of TLRs. There was also a reasonable amount of Contax and Leica type gear along with Russian copies. After my recent trip to Prague the Russian gear looked downright expensive, so I didn't buy any.

There was a fair amount of more modern usable 35mm and 120 SLR items. Prices varied all over the map. One dealer was obviously desperate to get rid of independent brand 42mm screwmount lenses..he had a whole box of them, many in quite nice condition, for \$5.00 each. (Australlian)

Champion overprice of the show was an Ensign Selfix 820 folder with standard Ross Xpres lens priced at \$300.00 US. I nearly choked. I think this has to beat the recent \$900 Super IKonta as the laugh of the year.

Here is a list of some of the items I puchrased at the show. All prices ar US.

Balda Super Baldax 6 X 6 folder with CRF, Radionar 2.9/80 in Prontor. Shutter was a bit sticky and lens with a bit of fungus, but cleaned up nicely and now exc++ and fully functional. \$ 41

Voigtlander Bessa I with 105/3.5 Color Skopar in Compur Rapid. exc+ condition with a few rub marks on chrome, fully functional and clear lens. \$ 44

Voigtlander Bessa II with 105/3.5 Color Skopar in Synchro Compur. exc+ condition with a few rub marks on chrome, fully functional with clear lens, accurate and aligned CRF. \$ 204

Mamiya 6 folder, MIOJ, with 80/3.5 coated Zuiko. RF is a bit off, lens turns out to have fungus damage to front of rear group, else exc. or exc- cosmetic condition. \$ 52

Petri Semi, 4.5 X 6, made in 1948 but not marked MIOJ, uncoupled RF, pop-up VF, cute camera, exc or exc+ condition, fully functional. \$ 81

Zeiss Ikon Bob 510/2, 105/7.7 Nettar Anastigmat in unnamed T, B, 25, 75 everset shutter. exc condition, everything works, trim paint missing only in small patches on the back. \$ 11

Nippon Koken Camera Works Nikkenflex TLR. Doesn't seem to be in McKeown's. exc+ condition, all working and no major marks except one very small dent in lower right corner of back. Lenses both Nikken Lichter 75/3.5, coated, shutter TSK B, 1-200 with synch. \$ 30

Schneider/Linhof Angulon 65/6.8 in Synchro Compur on Linhof lensboard. Lens perfect, shutter was jammed but I have since cleaned and unjammed it. \$ 89

Answer to This Month's Mystery Question

Believe it or not the real name is "Camera." It had a ground glass back and used single 3 x 5 cm sheet film in paper holders. The camera came in blk or other colors.

